

REMARKS

A total of 30 claims remain in the present application. The foregoing amendments are presented in response to the Office Action mailed January 27, 2006, wherefore reconsideration of this application is requested.

By way of the above-noted amendments, independent claims 1 and 18 have been cancelled in favour of new claim 35, which more distinctly defines features of the present invention. Claims 9, 16-18 and 22 have been cancelled to avoid redundancy. Claims 2-8, 10-15, 19, 21, 23-24, 29-30 and 34 have been amended to reflect the language of new claim 35.

In preparing the above-noted amendments, careful attention was paid to ensure that no new subject matter has been introduced.

Referring now to the text of the Office Action:

- claims 19, 20, 24 and 28 stand objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention;
- claims 1-19 and 24-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(c), as being unpatentable over the teaching of United States Patent No. 5,793,365 (Tang et al); and
- claims 20-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the teaching of United States Patent No. 5,793,365 (Tang et al) in view of United States Patent Application No. 2002/0085701 (Parsons).

The Examiners various claim rejections are believed to be traversed by the above-noted claim amendments, and further in view of the following discussion.

United States Patent No. 5,793,365 (Tang et al) teaches a system and methods which enable members of a workgroup to communicate through a digital network. Each member is provided with a user interface, which includes an icon for each of the other members of the workgroup. As described starting at col 12, line 9, "each worker's icon is associated with a

data structure that maintains information about the worker, and further provides method to access the communication services provided by an operating system for the user's computer and network installation, such as email, video-conferencing text dialog, and the like. In the preferred embodiment, this data structure is a person object 75" Thus, the system of Tang et al does provide a member profile (a.k.a. "person object 75") for each worker. However, Tang et does not teach or fairly suggest that each worker has a plurality of profiles, as required by claim 35.

Furthermore, Tang et al explicitly teaches that a worker's person object 75 is stored on that worker's computer, and sent to other workers' computers in response to request. As such, the gallery engine 60 does not maintain person objects, but rather merely holds a listing of references to the respective person objects of various workers. (See col. 12, lines 29-35). In direct contrast, the presently claimed invention requires that the member profiles are maintained by the persistent collaboration services suite, and that the team member defines each of their profiles by interaction with the persistent collaboration services suite.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that United States Patent No. 5,793,365 (Tang et al) fails to teach or fairly suggest all of the features of the presently claimed invention. United States Patent Application No. 2002/0085701 (Parsons) does not provide the missing teaching. More particularly, while Parsons uses a worker's current "presence context" to determine how an incoming call should be handled, Parsons does not teach or fairly suggest that each worker has a plurality of profiles, as required by claim 35. Nor does Parsons teach or fairly suggest that the team member defines each of their profiles by interaction with a persistent collaboration services suite.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the presently claimed invention is clearly distinguishable over the teaching of the cited references, taken alone or in any combination. Thus it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, and early action in that respect is courteously solicited.

If any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this response, such extension is hereby respectfully requested. If there are any fees due under 37

C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 which are not enclosed herewith, including any fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-5113.

Respectfully submitted,

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